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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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Authority: IC 2-5-1.1

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 3, 2003
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Sen. Robert Garton, Chairman; Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, Vice-Chairman; Sen. Becky Skillman; Sen. Patricia Miller; Sen. Thomas Wyss; Sen. Richard Young; Sen. James Lewis; Sen. Earline Rogers; Rep. Russell Stilwell; Rep. Dale Grubb; Rep. Charlie Brown; Rep. Scott Pelath; Rep. Brian Bosma; Rep. Richard Mangus.

Members Absent: Rep. Kathy Richardson; Sen. Joseph Harrison.

I. Call to Order.

Senator Robert Garton, Chairman of the Legislative Council, called the meeting to order at 1:46 P.M. The Chairman stated that Representative Kathy Richardson and Senator Joseph Harrison were excused from today's meeting.

II. Consideration of LCR 03-07 concerning Legislative Services Agency (LSA) employee participation in PERF's pre-tax annuity savings contribution plan.

The Chairman introduced Phil Sachtleben, Executive Director of the LSA, and asked Mr. Sachtleben to review the purpose of the resolution.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Mr. Sachtleben went through a PERF Powerpoint presentation on this topic that had been sent to the members (Exhibit A). Mr. Sachtleben pointed out that House and Senate staff would also be eligible to participate in the program if approved by the leadership in those chambers.

Mr. Sachtleben stated that under the PERF program, eligible employees would be able to make additional contributions to their PERF Annuity Savings Accounts on a pre-tax basis. However, once an employee decided to make these pre-tax contributions, the percentage could not be changed for the remainder of the employee's service.

The Chairman commented that he and Speaker had agreed that the House and Senate staff could participate.

The Council discussed the process for deciding an initial contribution, whether or not this amount could be changed later, and also how taxes are computed on these contributions.

Mr. Sachtleben then pointed out that if this resolution is adopted it would next go to PERF, and that there would be a process to educate individual employees who were eligible to make these contributions.

Senator Young made a motion do pass, the motion was seconded by Senator Patricia Miller, and the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

III. Consideration of LCR 03-08 concerning the payment of annual dues for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

The Chairman introduced this resolution and asked Mr. Sachtleben to give a short summary.

Mr. Sachtleben explained that the NCSL dues were unchanged from last year, and that the Council of State Government dues had already been approved. He also said that the appropriation for these dues was a bit more than will be needed.

Senator James Lewis made a motion of do pass, and the motion was seconded by Representative Brian Bosma.

The Chairman pointed out that the NCSL Executive Committee, one of whose members is Senator Beverly Gard, was being sensitive to the fiscal position of its members in not raising dues this year.

LCR 03-08 was adopted by voice vote.

IV. Report of the Legislative Council Subcommittee on the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

The Chairman then introduced Representative Bosma to speak on the progress of the Legislative Council Subcommittee on the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

Representative Bosma, Chairman of the Subcommittee, gave an update on the Subcommittee's work up to this point including the preparation of a preliminary draft organizing the new corporation. Representative Bosma noted that the subcommittee was operating by consensus, leaving more difficult issues for future meetings. Representative Bosma also thanked the LSA for its contributions to the Subcommittee. He also noted that the next Subcommittee meeting would be on Wednesday September 17, 2003.

Senator Young, Senator Wyss, and Representative Russell Stilwell commented on the progress of the Subcommittee and expressed appreciation for the input that had been received thus far.

V. Presentation concerning the preliminary property tax data analyzed by the Office of Fiscal Management Analysis (OFMA).

The Chairman then asked Mr. Sachtleben to make a presentation regarding the property tax reassessment.

Mr. Sachtleben gave the Council some background information on the process the LSA has gone through in gathering and organizing this tax data. He mentioned that much cooperation has taken place between the LSA and the local auditors and assessors to collect the specified data.

Mr. Sachtleben then introduced Ms. Diane Powers, Director of OFMA, to speak to the Council.

Ms. Powers gave a short introduction of the numbers about to be presented to the Council. She emphasized that the data in the presentation was only preliminary data. Ms. Powers also emphasized that data still needed to be collected for many counties, as well as more analysis of the data before any firm conclusions could be drawn from these numbers.

Ms. Powers then introduced Bob Sigalow, Senior Fiscal Analyst of OFMA, to present a status report on the tax data analyzed thus far.

Mr. Sigalow started the presentation with a map (Exhibit B) showing the progress of counties in reporting and finalizing their property tax statements.

Mr. Sigalow then moved on to a summary packet (Exhibit C) that showed a preliminary comparison of tax data from 2001 and 2003. Mr. Sigalow emphasized that this data was based on only a few counties' reports of tax statements, and he pointed out that a more in-depth analysis of this initial data was still under way.

The Council discussed with Mr. Sigalow the factors in counties' delays in reporting, the maximum increase allowed each year for local property tax levies, and the delay between application and award for the homestead credit.

Speaker Bauer commended the LSA on its work thus far and asked that Mr. Sigalow add a column to this report that includes data on what the property tax bills would have been if the General Assembly had not passed HEA 1001-2002 (ss).

Senator Garton asked that the information presented by the OFMA staff be sent to all legislators who represent the respective counties on an ongoing basis.

VI. Adjournment.

The Chairman stated that the next meeting date of the Council would be set at a later date. He adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM.